

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is a Development Plan?**

A County Development Plan sets out a strategic framework for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county for a six year period. The Plan acts as a blueprint for the development of the county from a physical, economic, social and environmental viewpoint and it must be consistent with EU policies, the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial Economic Strategies (RSES).

### **What is the National Planning Framework (NPF)?**

The NPF is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the country to the year 2040. The purpose of the NPF is to enable all parts of Ireland, whether rural or urban, to successfully accommodate growth and change, by facilitating a shift towards Ireland's regions and cities other than Dublin, while also recognising Dublin's ongoing key role.

The NPF is implemented at a regional level through the Regional Spatial Economic Strategies (RSESs) and at county level through the development plan.

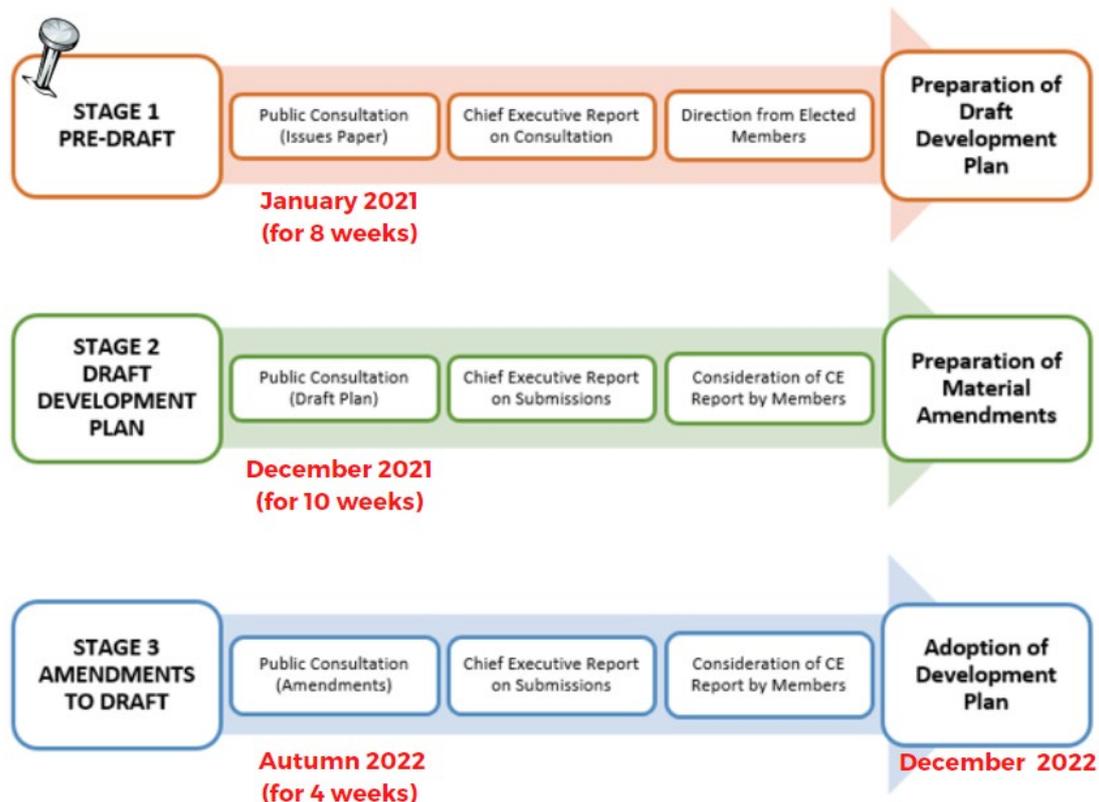
### **What is the Regional Social and Economic Strategy (RSES)?**

The aim of the RSES is to strengthen the settlement structure of the Eastern and Midland Region and to capitalise on the individual and collective strengths of the region's cities, towns and rural areas. The Strategy is underpinned by three key principles- Healthy Placemaking; Climate Action, and Economic Opportunity.

Naas and Maynooth are acknowledged in the Strategy as being Key Towns for the Region. Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge and Kilcock form part of a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) in the Strategy, in which several large scale strategic residential and economic development areas are identified that will deliver significant development in an integrated and sustainable manner in the metropolitan area.

### **What are the main stages/timeframes for preparing plans?**

A development plan must be made every six years, and the planning authority must give notice of its intention to review its existing development plan after four years (or two years before the current plan expires). The procedure is set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The development plan review process spans two years and includes various stages. Details of the steps that must be taken under each stage are outlined in the image below:



### What topics does the County Development Plan cover?

The main features of a county development plan are the written statement and the maps containing the development objectives for the county, including (but not limited to) population growth and the projected amount of land needed to house that population growth, employment and economic development (including a retail strategy), parks and playgrounds, transport, tourism, natural resources, community development, telecommunications, culture, environment and climate change. Everything of note that happens in the county is covered by the County Development Plan framed in the context of Climate Change ensuring proper planning and sustainable development.

### Are there any other documents that will be published alongside the plan?

In preparing the Plan, the environmental impacts of change as a result of new development must be considered at each step in an iterative process, whereby the plan is tweaked and improved at each stage. This will ensure that the implementation of the Plan will not result in a negative or adverse impact on the environment. There are three formal environmental processes.

1. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
2. Appropriate Assessment (AA)
3. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

These environmental reports will be published alongside the plan.

### What does the Draft Plan do to address climate change issues?

Kildare County Council has published a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024, which informs policy making at a county and local level in the future. The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is the first step towards achieving the national objective of becoming a more climate resilient society and economy by 2050 with the capability to tackle the many challenges that climate change can present. The County Development Plan will seek to promote a series of policies and objectives throughout that will ameliorate the effects of climate change and provide a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society.

### **What population growth is planned for the County?**

The NPF Implementation Roadmap and RSES provides for population projections for all Cities, Regions and Counties to 2031. The population of County Kildare is projected to increase by between 36,500 and 44,000 to the year 2031.

### **Where can I view the Issues Paper for the new Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029?**

The Strategic Issues Paper for the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 can be viewed online at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie> .

If you wish to view the document at the Planning Department in Aras Chill Dara, Naas during opening times of 9.00am–4.00pm, Monday to Friday (closed Bank Holiday Mondays) unless otherwise affected by national public health advice whereby updates in relation to same shall be set out on the Council's website. Where access can be facilitated at Áras Chill Dara and in accordance with public health advice, appointments must be booked in advance at <http://kildare.ie/county council/OnlineBookingSystem/> and face coverings must be worn in public buildings. Where face coverings are not worn, service may not be possible.

At the time of writing, Kildare County Council Libraries are not open to the public due to Covid 19 public health restrictions.

Should you require a copy of the Issues Paper to be posted to you, please email the Forward Planning team [forwardplanning@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:forwardplanning@kildarecoco.ie)

### **Can I get a copy of the Issues Paper?**

Yes. The Issues Paper may be accessed free of charge from the Kildare County Council Consultation portal [<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>] or you can request a hard copy by emailing [forwardplanning@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:forwardplanning@kildarecoco.ie)

### **Does the plan affect planning applications?**

All planning applications are considered and measured against the policies and objectives of the county development plan.

### **Who makes the plan?**

The making, reviewing and varying of the plan is a function reserved for the elected members (i.e. councillors) of the planning authority. It is their duty to adopt the plan with the technical help of the officials of the Council (the Chief Executive, Planners, Engineers, environmental advisors etc.), and following extensive public consultation. If the elected members fail to make a plan within the statutory 6 year period, the Chief Executive must make a plan.

### **Why should I make a submission?**

The new Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 will set out a vision for the future planning and sustainable development of County Kildare to 2029 and beyond. During the two year process, objectives and policies will be created which will seek to deliver this vision for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This is your community and the decisions made will impact on your future for years to come.

### **When can I make a submission in relation to the zoning of a particular parcel of land?**

Submissions or observations in relation to the zoning of a particular parcel of land can only be made during the public consultation period for the Draft Plan (Stage 2). Submissions or observations in relation to the zoning of lands made at the Pre-Draft Stage (Stage 1) will not be accepted and will be returned at this time.

### **How do I go about making a submission on the Issues Paper?**

Submissions or observations with respect to the Issues Paper may be made to Kildare County Council from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in one of the followings ways:  
Online at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie> or in writing to Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Any such written submissions or observations made before the stated closing date and time and to the specified postal address or online portal will be taken into consideration. Written submissions or observations must include your name and a contact address and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc. which you represent. All submissions will be published on our website. Please make your submission by one medium only i.e. in hard copy or online. E-mail or faxed submissions will not be accepted.

Details on your privacy rights and how the Kildare County Council will process your data in relation to the consultation process is available at (insert link).

### **How do I make a submission on the Kildare County Council Consultation portal?**

Go to <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>. Here you will be able to view or search for open and upcoming consultations and register for an account to make a submission. The registration process is a one-time process and your account can be used for all of the Council's online public consultations. It takes a couple of minutes to register, so please do not leave your submission to the last minute to submit. Other than required by law, your personal information such as contact details collected as part of the consultation process is protected

by data protection. They will remain confidential and will not be published or shared with third parties.